

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 through 14 - Cancelled.

15. (new) A plastic article, which is transparent and consists of

- B²
- i) a plastic substrate,
 - ii) optionally a coupling layer,
 - iii) at least one zinc oxide coating, wherein the coating consists essentially of zinc oxide nanoparticles which have a primary particle size of from 1 to 30 nm and which are embedded in an organosilane as a binder resin, and
 - iv) one abrasion resistant outer coating.

16. (new) The plastic article of Claim 15, wherein the abrasion-resistant coating contains sol-gel materials.

17. (new) The plastic article of Claim 16, wherein the zinc oxide particles are surface-modified with 3-glycidoxypopyltrimethoxysilane.

18. (new) The plastic article of Claim 15, wherein the zinc oxide particles are surface-modified with 3-glycidoxypopyltrimethoxysilane.

19. (new) The plastic article of Claim 15, wherein the plastic substrate comprises a member selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyethylene, polypropylene, polymethyl methacrylate, polystyrene, polyvinyl cyclohexane and copolymers thereof, acrylonitrile/butadiene/styrene copolymers (ABS), polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate and blends thereof.

20. (new) The plastic article of Claim 19, wherein the abrasion-resistant coating contains sol-gel materials.

21. (new) The plastic article of Claim 20, wherein the zinc oxide particles are surface-modified with 3-glycidoxypopyltrimethoxysilane.

22. (new) The plastic article of Claim 19, wherein the zinc oxide particles are surface-modified with 3-glycidoxypopyltrimethoxysilane.

23. (new) A method of protecting a plastic article against UV radiation and against mechanical damage comprising:

a) applying at least one zinc oxide coating to said article, wherein the coating consists essentially of zinc oxide nanoparticles which have a primary particle size of from 1 to 30 nm and an organosilane as a binder resin, and

b) applying an abrasion resistant coating to the zinc oxide coating.

24. (new) The method of Claim 23, wherein a coupling layer is applied to said article before application of said zinc oxide coating.